DECLASSIFIED Mr. Bruce 2032

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: December 16, 1952

SUBJECT: Danish ships.

PARTICIPANTS: Danish Ambassador
Mr. John Laylin, of Counsel
Mr. Bruce - Acting Secretary
L - Mr. Tate
TRC - Mr. Barringer L/C - Mr. English
EUR - Mr. Trivers

COPIES TO:

Mr. Bruce
L - Mr. Tate
TRC - Mr. Barringer
EUR - Mr. Trivers
L/C - Mr. English

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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The Ambassador called by appointment stating that he was anxious that all possible steps be taken with a view to expediting a settlement of the Danish ship claims. He indicated that he intended to contact Senator Wiley and also possibly Senator George in the near future.

There was some discussion of Mr. Laylin's proposal that a representative of State should check with representatives of the Department of Justice the latter's review of the Price Waterhouse figures relating to miscellaneous items (repairs, stores, etc.) and also check with the Maritime Administration Price Waterhouse's figures relating to compensation for use. Messrs. Tate and Barringer thought that it was inadvisable to make such checks at this time.

The Ambassador then inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining at this time a commitment from Secretary-designate John Foster Dulles to endorse the legislation which the Ambassador hopes to have introduced. Mr. Bruce stated that Mr. Dulles has requested that no matter be taken up with him prior to his assumption of office unless it was one of national importance requiring the taking of a governmental decision prior to that date. The Ambassador seemed satisfied that an approach to Mr. Dulles along that line was not feasible, although he indicated that if he saw Mr. Dulles before January 20 he would mention the matter to him.

In reply to the Ambassador's inquiry Mr. Bruce said that the Ambassador might tell Senator Wiley that the latter might discuss the matter with him (Mr. Bruce). Mr. Bruce said that at the appropriate time he would bring the matter to the attention of Mr. Dulles and also Francis Wilcox.

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